

MINUTES

ATTENDEES:

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

| | |
|----------------------------|---|
| FLEMING, Robert (Co-Chair) | BCCAT Executive Director |
| GRAEME, Angus (Co-Chair) | Retired President, Selkirk College |
| AROCA, Willy A. | Interim Dean, School of Hospitality, Food Studies & Business, Vancouver Community College |
| BIIN, Dianne | Director, Indigenous Education & Engagement, Selkirk College |
| COLLINS, Lisa | Vice-Provost & Associate Vice-President, Students, SFU |
| DOMAE, Lisa | President & CEO, North Island College |
| HERRERA LIRA, Debi | Chairperson, BC Federation of Students |
| HULBERT, Avery | Faculty Instructor/Program Coordinator, College of the Rockies |
| KIRKEY, Jennifer | College Instructor, Faculty of Science, Douglas College |
| KUNKEL, Titi | Vice-President Academic, Students, and International, Coast Mountain College |
| McCREDIE, Karen | Executive Director, EducationPlannerBC |
| McKEOWN, Stephanie | Chief Institutional Research Officer, UBC |
| McMILLAN, Grant | University Registrar, Trinity Western University |
| MITCHELL, Zena | Vice-President, Students, Kwantlen Polytechnic University |
| SAINI, Sam | Associate Registrar & Director of Undergraduate Admissions & Student Recruitment, UBC |
| SIEDLACZEK, Kathy | Dean, Teaching & Learning, BCIT |
| SOMERVILLE, Michelle | Education Planning Advisor, Recruitment and Enrolment Management, Okanagan College |
| WHITE, Lisa | PhD Candidate, Dept. of Educational Studies & Indigenous Education, UBC |
| WIEBE, Sunita | Director, Academic Quality Assurance, Langara College |

REGRETS: *Kevin Kaardal, John Chenoweth*

STAFF MEMBERS:

| | |
|------------------|--|
| CHUN, Anabella | Committee & Technology Support Coordinator |
| DROPOI, Adina | Office Coordinator |
| HESLOP, Joanne | Student Transitions Project Manager |
| KOOK, Jennifer | Associate Director, Member Services & Engagement |
| KUO, Irene | Pathways Coordinator |
| McQUARRIE, Fiona | Special Projects Officer |
| TIKINA, Anna | Director, Research & Admissions |
| TING, Elle | Research & Projects Officer |
| WINSEMANN, Mike | Director, Transfer & Technology |

GUESTS:

FERRELL, Ben Executive Director, Post- Secondary Digital Policy & Programs, PSFS

GUEST PRESENTERS

NOTE: For definitions of acronyms used in these minutes, refer to this list of Common Acronyms used by BCCAT:

<https://www.bccat.ca/pubs/Resources/CommonAcronyms2022.pdf>

MINUTES (DRAFT)

1. WELCOME & OPENING REMARKS

We acknowledge that we are gathering on the unceded territory of the Coast Salish peoples including the territories of the xʷməkwəyem (Musqueam) Skwxwúmesh (Squamish) Stó:lō and Selilweta? Selilwitulh (Tseil Waututh) Nations;

2. COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP

Rob and Angus welcomed the members to the meeting. Angus extended a special welcome to the new student member – Debi Herrera Lira – and provided a special acknowledgment to our outgoing student member – Lisa White – for her many contributions to the Council over the past few years.

Angus acknowledged Rob Fleming's last (70th) Council meeting and wished him well as he headed into retirement.

3. PROPOSED AGENDA

The proposed agenda was approved as presented.

MOTION: To approve the proposed agenda as presented. L. White/S. McKeown CARRIED

4. MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING (October 10, 2025)

The October 2025 minutes were approved as presented.

MOTION: To approve the October 2025 minutes as presented. S. Saini/D. Herrera Lira CARRIED

5. COUNCIL BUSINESS

5.1 Provincial Issues and Developments

5.1.1 Ministry Update

Ben provided a brief update, noting the following:

- Awareness of independent review of public post-secondary system, undertaken by Don Avison, former B.C. deputy minister and board chair of Emily Carr University of Art + Design. In the review's Terms of Reference, there is reference to strengthening student mobility in the province as a key priority, as part of moving the sector forward.
- The documents that were released publicly were detailed. Don will take on this task and will report back to the Ministry by mid-March, 2026. This process is underway and is supported by Kashi Tanaka, Executive Director for the Post-Secondary Finance Branch, which signals the emphasis around getting back to financial health.
- Ben is working to understand if there are opportunities for conveying input from a policy perspective. There may be opportunities for BCCAT to meet with Don. Ben will provide input as he gets some direction.
- Currently, the government is focussing on finding efficiencies and reorganizing. It has launched a new organization called *Connected Services BC*, which has centralized all IT in government. The Ministry is still working through what this means in terms of the relationship with the current systems and what it means for how the Ministry supports the post-secondary system with system-level technology and student information and the ERP strategy currently underway.
- In January, 2026, *Connected Services BC* will inform the Ministry about their operating model.
- The government recently announced that all HR will be centrally located within the public service agencies.
- Around the Digital Learning Strategy, Ministry has published the *Ethical Educational Technology Toolkit*. These resources dive into privacy, transparent use disclosure and other challenges.
- The Ministry will be publishing a set of Guidelines around AI and consideration for institutions for the use of AI. This is a resource to help address any gaps in institutional policy, guidelines, and principles. This resource was going to be available in a few weeks' time.

5.1.2 Indigenous Education Update

Dianne shared information on the *Indigenous Citizenship Declaration* policy. This policy has been implemented by some PSIs to ensure that opportunities for material gain that are designated for Indigenous Peoples are accessed by Indigenous Peoples. UVIC launched their portal for eligibility applications on November 1st, and it is rolling it out gradually. UBC Vancouver and Okanagan are piloting their policy as well. SFU has named its policy *Indigenous Welcoming protocol* and is piloting their policy with the medical graduate program.

5.1.3 EducationPlannerBC Update

Karen provided an update on the EPBC engagement work, noting the following:

- *Find your Fit*, originally facilitated by WorkBC, is an interactive event that gives students in grades 5-10 the chance to explore a variety of high-opportunity careers in B.C. through fun, hands-on activities designed to spark inspiration and curiosity. Karen was pleased with how the transition was going, delivering joint sessions with regular EPBC booths at various events such as ECF (Education Career Fairs) and CES (Career Education Society).
- This Fall, EPBC has launched enhancements to both the *Future Skills Grant* and *Microcredentials* pages to support learners searching for these opportunities.

5.2 Executive Director Report

Rob provided some highlights of recent activities and developments at BCCAT.

5.2.1 Key Activities & Developments

MINISTRY CONSULTATION ACTIVITIES

- BCCAT staff have continued discussions around pathways from Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) to Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) programs. BCCAT has gathered information around existing program pathways, which are part of a broader discussion BCCAT is looking to have, around getting better alignment between Nursing pathways. Mike gave an update at the Fall 2025 Deans/Directors meeting and at the British Columbia College of Nurses and Midwives in the past. There was going to be a discussion with Ministry staff the following day on this topic. There are many opportunities in the province for students to go from LPN to BSN programs, but the paths can differ. More information to come in subsequent months.
- BCCAT continues to collaborate with the BC Credit Bank at TRU to use BCCAT's TCS technology to record and house credit awards for microcredentials going through the PLAR process.
- BCCAT is currently working on the technical feasibility of AI development. It could be of use for the TCS and BC Credit Bank. An assessment was already carried out to evaluate the capability of our current TCS system.

BC TRANSFER SYSTEM CONSULTATION ACTIVITIES

- This is the time of the year when BCCAT is attending meetings with Deans' Groups to gain feedback on challenges and opportunities, as work plans for next year are developed.
- BCCAT had a very successful online JAM.
- Rob, Angus and Mike met with representatives of the Indigenous Adult and Higher Learning Association (IAHLA) to organize meetings with respect to the revision of BCCAT's Membership Policy. More information will be forthcoming at the March 2026 Council meeting.
- Rob has continued to meet with Northern Consortium consultants around student pathway opportunities and potentially joint admission opportunities. This ties in with the TCS Pathways work BCCAT is carrying out.

INTERPROVINCIAL/INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION

- Rob has reached out to sector associations in the public sector to provide a letter of introduction for Mike and to uphold the relationships built over the years.
- BCCAT staff will be presenting at the upcoming PCCAT and ONCAT conferences.

OPERATIONS

- Mike Winsemann will be BCCAT's Interim Executive Director as of December 15, 2025. BCCAT is doing a portfolio re-alignment, with BCCAT staff backfilling Mike's previous responsibilities on an interim basis for the next year. This will impact the information technology, and transfer and articulation portfolios.

-
- Rob is continuing to work with BCIT and PSFS on the renewal of the MoU in supporting BCCAT administration and operations.

5.2.2 Staff Report

The staff report was included in the package for information.

5.2.3 Project & Activities Update

The projects were on track.

5.3 BCCAT & Accountability

5.3.1 2025-26 Budget Update (Q3)

Rob provided a budget update to Council members on quarter three of the current fiscal year. BCCAT was preparing to file the quarter three documents to the Ministry in January 2026. BCCAT was trending towards a surplus, thanks in part to generated revenue from relationship with ONCAT. BCCAT has added a second project to assess the feasibility for TCS BC Credit Bank proposed solution.

5.4 Member Policy – Verbal Update

The BCTS Membership Policy and Procedures document has been substantially written, mainly for concise language. The members of the subcommittee reviewing the policy will meet again in the new year to add final touches. There was also a question around a fee for membership applications. If this is implemented, it will be dealt with as a separate schedule.

6. ADMISSIONS

6.1 Admissions Committee

(Last Meeting: September 26, 2025)

Sunita thanked Anna for preparing her as the incoming Chair on the committee, and thanked Zena Mitchell, as the outgoing Chair.

The committee last met on September 26, and the meeting minutes were not ready for distribution yet. At the last meeting, the committee discussed potentially adding a third meeting in late May to avoid a long gap between meetings from January to September. This third tentative meeting might be a shorter one and would take place online only.

Two new members have joined the committee for a three-year term: Lisa Middleton, Associate Registrar, JIBC, and Nadia Henwood, AVP, Enrollment Services & Registrar, KPU.

In terms of 2025-26 projects, *The Value Proposition for Post-secondary Education* is done in-house by Elle Ting, and the preliminary results were presented at JAM. *A Review of Admissions Models at BC Public Post-Secondary Institutions* was contracted out to University of Toronto researchers.

In terms of 2024-25 projects, *Students' Affordability Considerations for Post-Secondary Access* was close to completion, with a final draft in review.

Projects for 2026-27 will be discussed at the January 2026 committee meeting, and recommendations will be provided for the March 2026 Council meeting.

6.2 Admissions Projects

Elle provided an overview of the three ongoing projects:

1. *The Value Proposition for Post-secondary Education* project forms a small part of the multi-jurisdictional conversation around the perceived value of higher education. It addresses how learner public perceptions are created and amplified by what's happening around us, such as demographics, social, economic and geopolitical trends. Elle presented this project at JAM, and the draft final report will be completed early in the new year.

2. *A Review of Admissions Models at BC Public Post-Secondary Institutions* project aims at reviewing the applicability of different admissions models and exploring the perspectives of admissions professionals and the models that they use. The literature review for this project was completed.
3. The *Students' Affordability Considerations for Post-Secondary Access* project examines how students navigate the decision-making process from a financial point of view and what types of information and data are available to help them shape decisions. The researchers have surveyed and interviewed a range of post-secondary professionals, but not students. The updated draft report is going to the committee for consideration and approval. The contract was extended until December 2025.

7. RESEARCH

7.1 Research Committee

(Last Meeting: October 3, 2025)

Stephanie reported that the Research committee last met on October 3, and the minutes from that meeting were not ready for distribution. Adrienne Vedan, Senior Advisor to the Deputy Vice-Chancellor on Indigenous Affairs and Director of Aboriginal Programs and Services, UBC, has joined the committee for a three-year term.

There are two research projects currently underway for 2025-26: *Administering Three-Year Degrees, A Review of Drivers, Policies and Practices*, which is led in-house by Elle Ting, and *Laddering Short Post-Secondary Programs: Practices and Perspectives*, which has been contracted to HESA.

The *Delivery Mode preferences: Students' Surveys and Institutional Responses* project was conducted by UFV researchers and presented at JAM. The project is a repository of surveys that assess students' responses to changes in course and program delivery modalities. The link to the interactive dashboard is: <https://www.bccat.ca/publications/deliverypreferencesdashboard/>.

The Contemporary Issues in Student Mobility Call for Proposals has had a huge response this year, with 10 Letters of Intent submitted. BCCAT will adjudicate the Letters of Intent. The proponents of the projects that meet the criteria of the Council's mandate will be invited to submit full proposals in early January.

The Committee members will be looking for 2026-27 research ideas for the next cycle.

7.2 Research Projects

Elle walked the Council members through the following research projects:

1. Elle is working on *Administering Three-Year Degrees: A Review of Drivers, Policies and Practices*. This is an exploration of development and use of three year vs. four-year degrees in Canada and elsewhere. The final report will be completed in the new year.
2. The *Laddering Short Post-Secondary Programs: Practices and Perspectives* project was contracted out to HESA. The goal of this project is to offer examples of program laddering below baccalaureate degree and beyond traditional pathways such as Associate Degree to Baccalaureate. The interview instrument has been through committee review and HESA was planning to reach out to Registrars from BC Public PSIs in January 2026. The environmental scan was completed.

The Contemporary Issues projects in progress are:

1. *Transferring Accommodations in the Institutional Setting: Challenges & Opportunities*, which is led by UFV. The team will investigate the needs of post-secondary students when they are transferring accessibility and accommodations from institution to institution.
2. The *Advancing Cross-Discipline Credit Recognition Pathways in BC* project is led by VIU. The research study aims to identify a comprehensive framework for enhancing what's previously been called trades to academic transfer credit pathways.

8. TRANSFER & ARTICULATION

8.1 Transfer & Articulation Committee

(Last Meeting: September 19, 2025)

Sam already provided an update on the last TAC meeting which took place on September 19 at the October Council meeting. The meeting minutes were not ready for distribution.

8.2 TAC Projects

Fiona provided an update on the following projects:

1. The *Assessing the Resource Requirements and Benefits of Participation in the BC Transfer System* project is currently undergoing internal review.
2. The *Understanding Barriers to Transferring Credit for Transfer Students in BC* project is a project that Fiona presented on at JAM. She presented the theoretical model underlying the paper. Fiona will be using three sources of data for this project: TCS data, review of institutional websites, and two surveys: one going to transfer credit contacts at the member institutions and the other to the articulation committee Chairs.

8.3 JAM Report

Mike provided a recap of the JAM via presentation of some highlights of the event.

It was overall a successful and engaging event, with 400 registrants, and at least 200 participants or more in every session, depending on the topic of discussion. BCCAT did a mixture of live and pre-recorded sessions to keep sessions short and lively. BCCAT used a Canadian-based platform, Pheedloop, which from an attendee perspective, was very well received.

Most of the sessions are now available on the BCCAT YouTube channel, on the JAM 2025 playlist.

9. TECHNOLOGIES/WEBSITES

9.1 Transfer Credit System (TCS)

9.1.1 TCS AI Environmental Scan

Mike is part of the AI Working Group and one of its highlighted areas of opportunity was using AI to help enhance the transfer credit evaluation and articulation process. BCCAT has been working with an AI consultant to analyze how to leverage AI into the existing TCS system to benefit the transfer credit process. Some high-level use cases have been identified, including evaluating how AI can analyze 30,000 course outlines to extract content and learning outcomes, as well as make predictions about articulation opportunities. The intention was to also use AI to find pinch points for areas where there were lags or delays in responses.

BCCAT has received an initial report from the consultant and is currently reviewing the findings. There are many opportunities that could be leveraged by putting AI into TCS to help with some of the use cases identified. Some of the key challenges to consider involve intellectual property and available resources to support AI development.

Next steps: the contractor is doing another environmental scan and is looking at the workflow for microcredentials and how they can be assessed for articulation.

9.2 ONCAT Project

BCCAT has been working in partnership with ONCAT to deploy the TCS in ON. That project went live last October. ONCAT is now using the same TCS platform as BC with a shared data infrastructure. One of the benefits of working with ONCAT is the ability to share costs and ideas when it comes to technology development. In October, a substantial number of new tools were released for the BC TCS. A new course outline look-up tool and updates will be visible on almost every screen to help with better wayfinding and better use of the system.

9.3 TCS Pathways Update

The pilot is currently underway, with the pathways tool being the next generation of the TCS tools that allow institutions to articulate on a program-by-program basis. Currently DOUG, UVIC, VIU and UBC are partners in the pilot. UNBC and CMTN are also working on the program. They are expected to complete piloting in January 2026. At that point, BCCAT will be hosting TCS sessions with other PSIs to gather their feedback and look at some of the requirements and at operationalizing the tool.

10. COMMUNICATIONS

10.1 BCCAT Transfer Awards

Mike provided an update on behalf of Val, who was setting up for the Awards ceremony. The four 2025 awardees to be celebrated are:

Transfer & Articulation Service Award:

- **Hilary Thomas** (Associate Registrar, Nicola Valley Institute of Technology)
- **Alejandra Mazariegos** (Transfer Credit & Graduation Supervisor, Capilano University)
- **Lisa Randell** (Transfer & Articulation Officer, Langara College)

Lifetime Achievement Award:

- **Maggie Reagh** (EAP Program Coordinator, ABE Recruitment Convenor, Capilano University - now retired)

A highlights video will be released early next year. For details, see <https://www.bccat.ca/about/awards/2025-2/>

11. IN THE NEWS

Click here to view recent news articles of interest:

<https://mailchi.mp/d4877d741acb/gd0mdypkry-6750741>

ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

NEXT MEETINGS & ADJOURNMENT:

| | |
|---------------------------|--------------------|
| COUNCIL | March 16, 2026 |
| TRANSFER AND ARTICULATION | May 22, 2026 |
| COUNCIL | June 8, 2026 |
| ADMISSIONS | September 26, 2026 |
| COUNCIL | October 5, 2026 |
| RESEARCH | October 9, 2026 |
| COUNCIL | December 7, 2026 |
| COUNCIL | March 15, 2027 |